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REMARKS

Claims 1-10, as amended, remain herein.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that each of (1) the server communication means, (2) the mobile communication means and (3) the client communication means, comprises a link mechanism in compliance with the Bluetooth protocol for linking the server communication means with either the mobile communication means or the client communication means. See applicants' specification at page 7, lines 5-28, and at page 8, line 6 to page 9, line 6, and Figs. 1 and 2 showing communication means 16, 27 and 26'.

Claim 1 also has been amended to further recite "to supply display and monitoring functions of the server automatic control equipment to the mobile device or to the client automatic control equipment." See applicants' originally filed claim 9, reciting a user of the mobile device can control, display and monitoring functions of the server automatic control equipment.

Claim 2 has been edited for clarity to recite "a server internal memory" to distinguish from the client memory.

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Claim 4 has been amended to recite "server automatic control equipment is for waiting for and receiving a detection query." See applicants' Fig. 3.

A minor, editorial change has been made in claim 8.

The specification at page 7, lines 16 and 21, has been amended to recite "client automatic control equipment 20'." Other minor edits for clarity have been made.

Claim 11 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. Objections were stated to the drawings for not including descriptive labels for the blocks. Submitted herewith are copies of Figures 1-4 revised to include descriptive labels. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

2. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly not in compliance with the written description requirement. Claim 1 has been amended to delete reference to "receiving means" and to reword reference to "link mechanism" to moot the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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3. Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gastouniotis et al. U.S. Patent 5,438,329 and Tang et al. U.S. Patent 6,347,095. Claim 11 has been cancelled, thereby mooting its rejection.

The presently claimed access system comprises a server automatic control equipment, at least one mobile device, and at least one client automatic control equipment, each of the mobile device, the client automatic control equipment and the server automatic control equipment comprising a transmission/reception means connected to a communication means for transmitting and receiving messages on a wireless proximity network using radio waves, wherein each of the server communication means, the mobile communication means and the client communication means comprises a link mechanism in compliance with the Bluetooth protocol for linking the server communication means with either the mobile communication means or the client communication means, to supply control, display and monitoring functions of the server automatic control equipment to the mobile device or to the client automatic control equipment, wherein the link mechanism comprises: (1) a detection means for detecting presence of at least one server

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automatic control equipment, (2) a description means for querying identification of the detected server automatic control equipment, and (3) a service means for communicating with the identified server automatic control equipment. This arrangement is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited references.

Gastouniotis '329, column 4, lines 6-9, states that the Gastouniotis '329 arrangement has any of the configurations shown in Fig. 1, i.e., the instrument links 2 associated with a data gathering device 4 (i.e., meters) have bi-directional communication with any of a remote station in a vehicle, a hand-held station, a residential station, or a fixed station service multiple data gathering devices.

The Office Action cites Gastouniotis '329, column 6, lines 6-61, as allegedly disclosing applicants' "link mechanism." However, Gastouniotis '329 describes "instrument links 2" connected to each data gathering device 4, and a remote station 6 for interrogating instrument links 2 and for receiving output from links 2 in both serial and duplex modes. Thus, Gastouniotis '329 discloses remote station 6 performing interrogation of data gathering device 4, not the other way

around. Gastouniotis '329 does not disclose or suggest that data gathering device 4 (such as a meter) has a server function such as described by applicant as control application program 29 and memory 28 shown in applicants' Figs. 1 and 2. Gastouniotis '329 describes Fig. 1 showing remote station 6 sending interrogation signal 10a to each instrument link 2 to obtain information gathered by a data gathering unit 4 (e.g. a utility meter), which wakes up and interrogates the instrument link at the meter. Each interrogated instrument link 2 responds by transmitting a reply message 10b, whereupon receipt of the reply is acknowledged by remote station 6, which transmits an acknowledgement signal 10a.

Applicants' claim 1 recites the link mechanism comprising a detection means for detecting presence of at least one server automatic control equipment, i.e., applicants' mobile device or client automatic control equipment locates and "wakes up" the server automatic control equipment by issuing a signal for detecting (and then querying identification and then communicating with) the server. But, Gastouniotis '329, column 4, lines 15-17, states that the "detecting" component is remote station 6, which interrogates data gathering device 4. Accordingly, remote station 6 corresponds to applicants'

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mobile device or client automatic control equipment, because all three initially "wake up" another device.

Applicants' claim 1 further recites applicants' server automation control equipment, after being awakened up by the mobile device or client automation equipment, is for supplying control, display and monitoring functions of the server automatic control equipment to the mobile device or the client automatic control equipment. Stated differently, the mobile device/client equipment awakens the server, gains access to the server control application program 29 (applicants' Figs. 1 and 2), and thereby runs the server, i.e., functional control of the server is in the hands of the mobile device/client equipment.

But, remote station 6 of Gastouniotis '329 corresponds to applicants' mobile device or client automatic control equipment, as discussed above, and nowhere in Gastouniotis '329 is there any description of remote station 6 having the capability of performing all of applicants' recited functional control of the device it wakes up, i.e., to supply control, display and monitoring function of such data gathering device 4. That does not happen, because the data gathering device is not described by Gastouniotis '329 as having a server function

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with server components to be controlled. Instead, as described by Gastouniotis '329 at column 4, lines 47-61, remote station 6 merely interrogates instrument links 2 of the data gathering unit to "obtain information acquired by the data gathering unit 4 since the last reading", i.e., a data reply signal 10b is transmitted back to station 6. Also, Gastouniotis '329 at column 11, lines 23-26, describes unit 4 as responding by transmitting a "register reading" or "diagnostic information" to remote station 6. Nowhere in Gastouniotis '329 is there any discussion of remote station 6 for exercising server control functions in data gathering unit 4.

The Office Action cites Gastouniotis '329, column 16, lines 3-14, as allegedly disclosing functions of applicants' link mechanism. Actually, Gastouniotis '329 describes merely remote station 6 shown in Fig. 4, including controller 88 for providing the instrument link wake up signal to be transmitted by transmitter 80. Nothing further is mentioned in connection with acquiring control (by remote station 6) of any alleged server functionality located in the data gathering unit.

The Office Action cites Gastouniotis '329, column 11, lines 23-37, as allegedly disclosing applicants' service

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means. By the above analysis, such service means would necessarily be supplied by the device being awakened, i.e., data gathering unit 4 of Gastouniotis '329. Gastouniotis '329, column 11, lines 23-26, describes data unit 4 as responding by transmitting a register reading or diagnostic information to remote station 6.

Nowhere else in Gastouniotis '329 is there any further description of the communication between the data gathering unit 4 and remote station 6 that suggests applicants' server functionality residing in data unit 4 or a link mechanism between such equipment that establishes by remote station 6 control, display and monitoring functions of a server function/component in data gathering unit 4.

The Office Action admits that Gastouniotis '329 does not disclose communication means utilizing Bluetooth technology and cites Tang '095 as allegedly teaching same. However, Tang '095 does not provide the deficiencies of Gastouniotis '329 described herein.

Applicants' claim 2 recites the access system of claim 1 comprising a server internal memory containing information relating to the server automatic control equipment, wherein the client communication means or the server communication

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means has access to the server internal memory. As discussed herein, Gastouniotis '329 discloses a remote station 6 allegedly corresponding to applicants' mobile device or client automatic control equipment, for waking up data gathering unit 4, which Gastouniotis '329 does not disclose as having server components or function. Therefore, Gastouniotis '329 does not disclose remote station 6 having access to such server internal memory component.

Contrary to the Office Action, Gastouniotis '329 does not disclose or suggest data gathering unit 4 responding to an inquiry from remote station 6 by returning "a list of services offered by" the data gathering unit 4, as recited in applicants' claim 8. Instead, Gastouniotis '329 at column 11, lines 23-26, describes unit 4 as responding by transmitting merely a "register reading" or "diagnostic information" to remote station 6.

Contrary to the Office Action, Gastouniotis '329 does not disclose or suggest remote station 6 for exchanging messages with data gathering unit 4 so that a user of remote station 6 can perform control, display and monitoring functions of data gathering unit 4, as recited in applicants' claim 9, as discussed herein.

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For the foregoing reasons, neither Gastouniotis '329 nor Tang '095 contains any teaching, suggestion, reason, motivation or incentive that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in either of these references that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Claims 2 and 4-9, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons described herein for claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

4. Claims 3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gastouniotis '329, Tang '095 and de Silva et al. U.S. Patent 6,564,320.

Claims 3 and 10, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons described herein for claim 1.

Moreover, the Office Action admits that Gastouniotis '329 and Tang '095 do not disclose or suggest applicants' client automatic control equipment comprising server communication means and client communication means, for performing a server function and a client function, and cites de Silva '320 as

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allegedly teaching same. However, de Silva '320 does not provide the deficiencies of Gastouniotis '329 and Tang '095 described herein.

For the foregoing reasons, none of Gastouniotis '329, Tang '095 or de Silva '320 contains any teaching, suggestion, reason, motivation or incentive that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in any of these references that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

All claims 1-10 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.


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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

May 21, 2004
Date


Roger W. Parkhurst
Registration No. 25,177
Robert N. Wieland
Registration No. 40,225

RWP:RNW/mhs

Attachments: 2 annotated sheets showing changes Figs. 1-4
4 replacement sheets Figs. 1-4

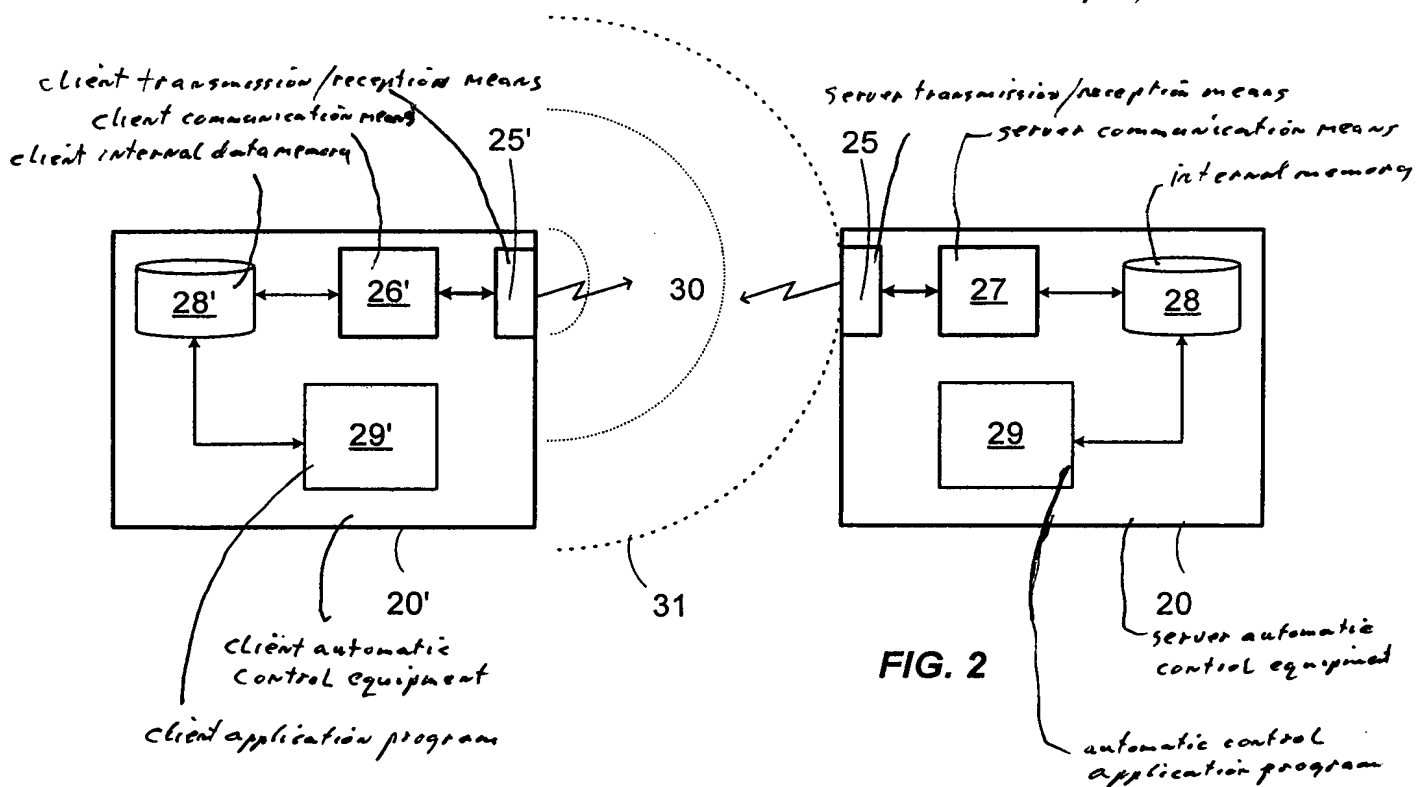
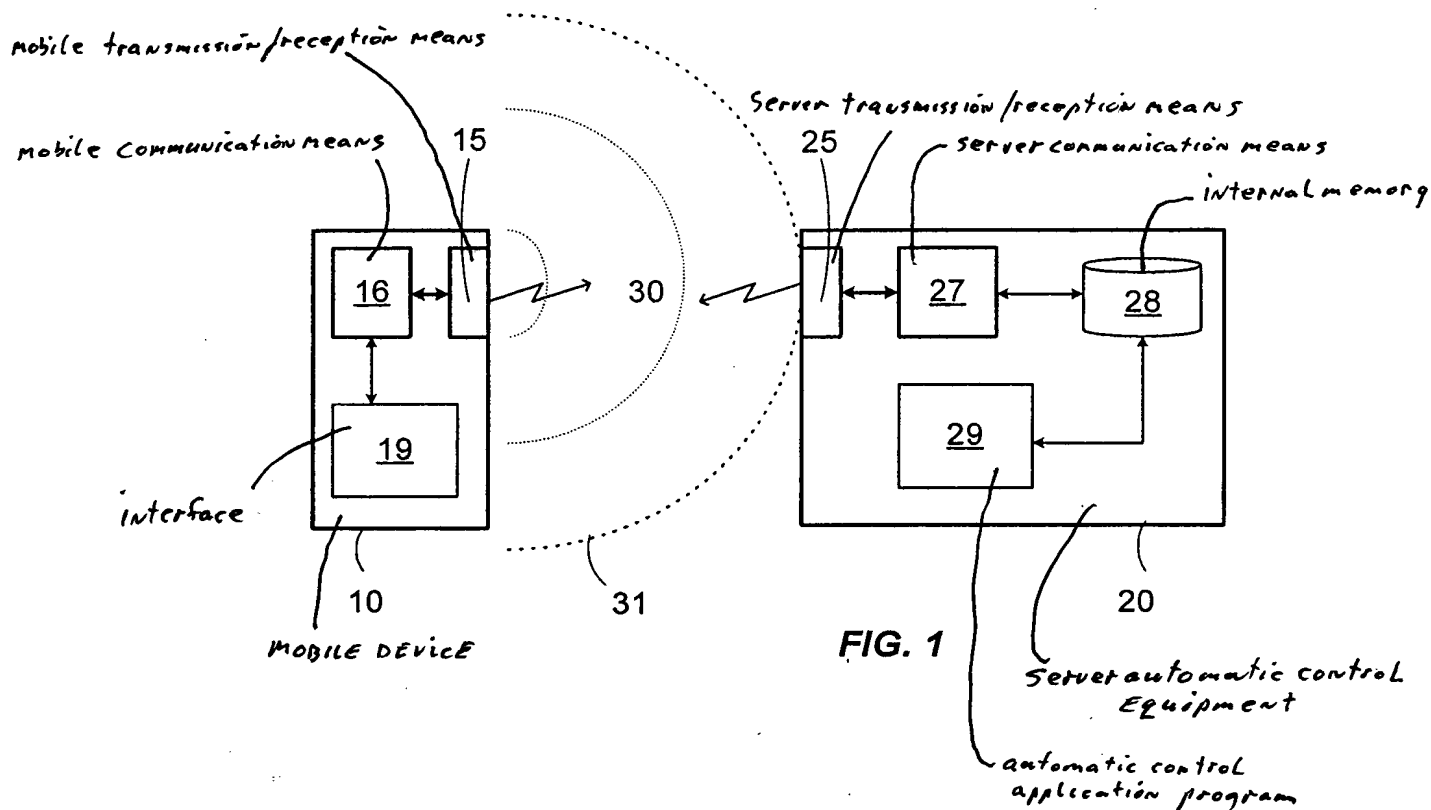
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PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805
Telephone: (703) 739-0220



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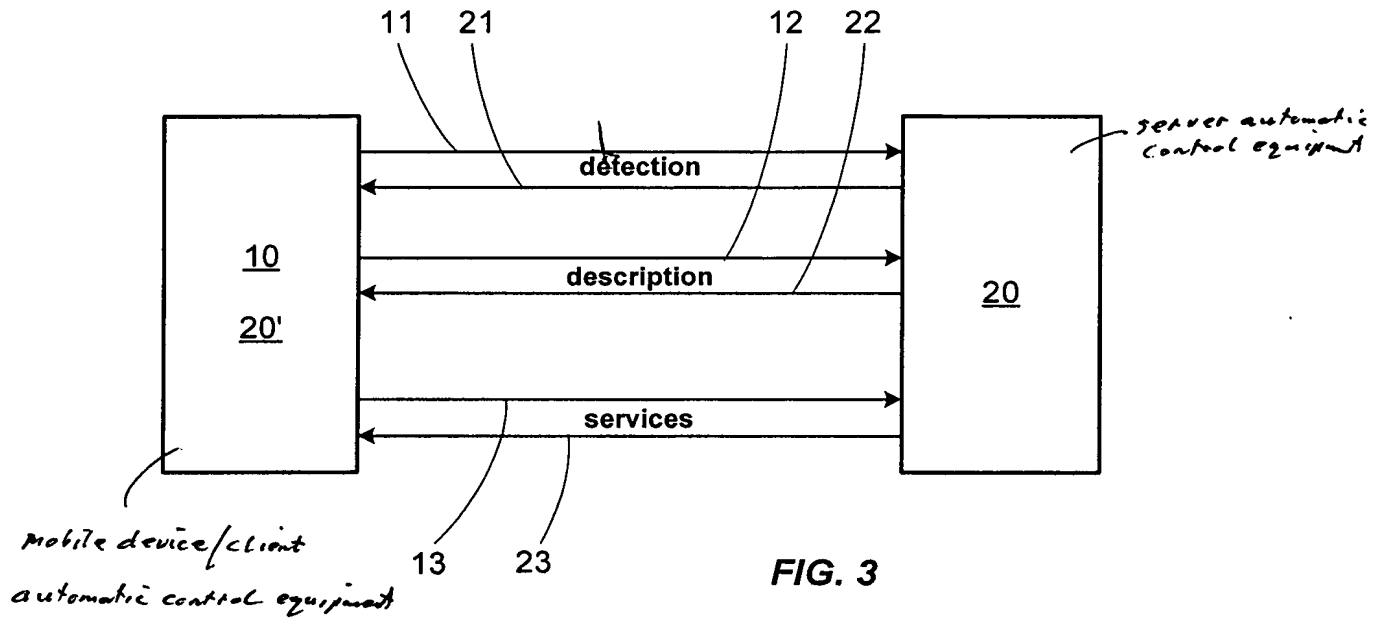


FIG. 3

